

SENATE BILL NO. 669

BY SENATOR WARD AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, ANDERS, ARNOLD,
BADON, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BROADWATER,
BROWN, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, COX,
DOVE, GAINES, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUINN, HARRIS, HAZEL,
HENSGENS, HILL, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD,
HUNTER, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, NANCY
LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEOPOLD, MILLER,
MONToucET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO,
PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER,
SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, THIERRY, WHITNEY, PATRICK
WILLIAMS AND WILLMOTT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 22:997, relative to visual services and choice of practitioners; to
3 provide with respect to vision care services performed by a licensed optometrist; and
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 22:997 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §997. Visual services, choice of practitioners

8 A. Whenever any ~~medical eye care or vision care benefits are provided by~~
9 ~~or available through a health maintenance organization, preferred provider~~
10 ~~organization, managed care organization, accountable care organization, plan~~
11 ~~or contract of insurance or any medical or hospital service contract or hospital and~~
12 ~~medical service contract issued or delivered in this state provides for reimbursement~~
13 ~~of any visual services which that~~ are within the lawful scope of practice of a duly
14 licensed optometrist as defined in R.S. 37:1041(C)(5), ~~there shall be no~~
15 ~~discrimination in the amount of either:~~

16 (1) Medical eye care or vision care benefits available to an insured,
17 participant, or other person entitled to such benefits, whether provided by an
18 optometrist or physician, in instances where the services performed are within

1 the lawful scope of practice of both professions.

2 (2) Reimbursements or payments to the provider of such medical eye
3 care or vision care services, whether performed by an optometrist or physician,
4 in instances where the services performed are within the lawful scope of
5 practice of both professions. ~~the insured or other person entitled to benefits under~~
6 ~~such contract shall be entitled to reimbursements for such services, whether such~~
7 ~~services are performed by a duly licensed physician or a duly licensed optometrist,~~
8 ~~notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary or any provision in any~~
9 ~~such contract, duly licensed optometrist shall be entitled to participate in such~~
10 ~~contracts providing for visual services to the same extent as duly licensed physicians.~~
11 ~~There shall be no discrimination in the amount of reimbursement allowed for such~~
12 ~~visual services, whether performed by an optometrist or physician, in instances~~
13 ~~where the services performed are within the lawful scope of practice of both~~
14 ~~professions.~~

15 B. A duly licensed optometrist shall be entitled to participate in
16 contracts or plans providing for medical eye care or vision care services as a
17 healthcare provider or otherwise, to the same extent as a duly licensed
18 physician, and there shall be no discrimination against any provider, whether
19 an optometrist or physician, who is located within the geographic area of the
20 health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, managed
21 care organization, accountable care organization, or plan or contract of
22 insurance. A health maintenance organization, preferred provider
23 organization, managed care organization, accountable care organization, plan
24 or contract of insurance, or any medical or hospital service contract shall not
25 impose a co-payment, co-insurance amount, or any other fee on a covered
26 participant or insured that is greater than the amount charged for the same
27 service when provided by an allopathic physician or an osteopathic physician.

28 C. It shall be unlawful for a health maintenance organization, preferred
29 provider organization, managed care organization, accountable care
30 organization, or plan or contract of insurance to require a duly licensed

1 optometrist to participate as a provider in another medical or vision care plan
2 or contract as a condition of or requirement for participation by such duly
3 licensed optometrist as a provider in any medical or vision care plan or
4 contract.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____